

### HOT SPOTS

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### HOT TOPICS



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## “Hello, Dolly!” actors, musicians wow audiences with level of talent

### Usiak stars as Dolly, Self as Vandergelder

The MHS Drama Knights presented their production of “Hello, Dolly!” on April 24, 25, 26 to rave reviews. Julia Usiak gave an incredible performance as Dolly Levi, channeling all of the quirky fun and power originally breathed into the role by Barbara Streisand (Julia even made sure the cast knew that opening night was Ms. Streisand’s birthday). Other great performances included Nate Self channeling his inner “grumpy old man” as Horace Vandergelder, Katie Cowan delivering a gracious Irene Molloy, Kenzie DuMars whirling and twirling as a plucky Minnie Fay, Kevin Swann and Bryce Leber providing the laughs and antics as Cornelius Hackl and Barnaby Tucker, and the lithe and limber Sam Buchanan and Annabelle Afzali as the lovers turned polka-prize winners, Ambrose Kemper and Ermenegarde. Senior Julianna Posey portrayed Ernestina Money and was a fan-favorite for her all-too-real physical humor.

These leads were blessed with a hugely supportive cast, pit orchestra, and crew (led by stage managers: Brittany Conyers, Tommy James, and Lyndsi Clabaugh). All of the students did an incredible job getting the show “stage-ready” despite many rehearsals cancelled due to winter weather.

As always, none of this amazing “artistic endeavoring” would have been possible without the tireless dedication

and immeasurable talent of Mr. Shearer (pit conductor), Dee Buchanan (choreographer), Mrs. Duva (production manager), and the indomitable force that is our production director: Ms. Susan Thornton. “Hello, Dolly!” received standing ovations after every performance and the MHS Drama Knights continue to celebrate this success while gearing up for our drama banquet May 9, where the announcement will be made regarding shows for next season!

This weekend also marked the dedication of the new MHS auditorium marquee in honor of retired MHS English and Drama Teacher, Marci Nicklas. With this new, technologically-advanced means of advertising and announcement, groups performing on the MHS stage will be able to update and inform the MHS community with pictures, slide shows and movies.

April was a great month for MHS Drama and we look forward to spending the rest of our year celebrating our graduating seniors and laying the plans for an even more incredible 2015-16 MHS Drama season!

Follow the MHS Drama community on Facebook or on Twitter @MHS DramaKnights

### HOT SHOTS

#### Ag Day



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On May 1, MHS Ag Day featured stations offering lessons in horticulture by the art and science departments, mechanics by the math and physics classes, pre vet by the gym, health and science classes, forestry and wildlife by the social studies and science departments, and intro to agriculture by the English and Social Studies departments. Stations included bud base arrangements, germinating seed necklaces, horsepower, vital signs, pollution, and dust bowl in a bottle.

#### Mr. Middletown



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Photos by Tori Isleib  
On May 2, nine worthy contestants fought valiantly for the title of Mr. Middletown in the show’s 17th edition. Senior Jacob Stalnaker emerged victorious at the end, with Nick Forbes finishing second and Chris Lloyd grabbing the third spot. Also competing were Keller Falkenstein, Jake Full, Andrew Klingensmith, Dylan O’Toole, Tyler Staley and Nick Welch. The event included competition in formal wear, talent, lip sync, and a question and answer session.

Want your website, Twitter account, Facebook page, or Instagram feed listed here?



Or do you have news from the MHS community that you want to share?

Contact Brooke Hontz at [Brooke.Hontz@fcps.org](mailto:Brooke.Hontz@fcps.org)

If you are interested in advertising in the newsletter during the 2015-2016 school year, contact Noah Kady at [noah.kady@fcps.org](mailto:noah.kady@fcps.org)

## FFA members beautify school front with landscaping; step carefully

Hopefully, you have had the opportunity to take a look at the brand new landscaping as you enter the school. Please take care and don’t step on our baby plants and shrubs and please refrain from littering. It looks great now, but wait until more of the plants sprout and bloom. This spring and summer should be gorgeous!

A lot of sweat and hard work have gone into this project and we have a lot of people to thank. Thanks to administration, maintenance, grounds and the custodial staff for working to make this happen in a short amount of time. Thanks to the groups who have helped fund the project: MHS SGA, MHS PTSA, MHS and MHS Horticulture. A large thank you to the Garden Center (new store by Subway) for donating their time, men, money, skill, labor and knowledge to set it up and work with our students. Thanks also to Perennial Landscapes who wrote the plan and Leslie Ruby for her marketing expertise. Finally, thank you to the MHS FFA members, parents, alumni and advisors for doing the work all day on March 26 and March 27.

It was an effort put in place by all and the results are wonderful. What an outstanding first impression visitors have to Middletown High School. It reflects how wonderful everyone is inside the walls!

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## MHS science teacher makes service a part of learning

### Experiences run gamut from releasing trout to rebuilding homes

By Samantha Yeager and Laura Myers  
Round Table reporters

From getting their hands dirty in the Catocin Mountain Park to collecting tickets for the Empty Bowls Banquet, Middletown High School biology teacher Sharon Steger’s students have spent many hours helping their community and environment.

Steger makes getting involved a priority, as much a part of education as a lab in a classroom setting or a test based on a textbook. “I think it’s just important to be helpful toward the community,” said Steger. “The kids get a whole lot out of it.”

About four years ago, Steger attended an Environmental Conference in Ocean City, Maryland. There she went to Trout in the Classroom.

From then on, each year, Steger’s students are able to raise eggs from January to June. In June, the students take a field trip in Doubs Meadow Park in Myersville to release the trout into the creek there.

The Trout in the Classroom is one of Steger’s many service projects that she and her students participate in throughout the year. Other projects include removing barberry from Catocin Mountain Park and Rebuilding Together.

Another project is In the Streets during the fall semester. There, Steger’s students do free face painting and promote recycling.

Being a strong advocate for getting involved, Steger said that students “have to be there to experience the feeling.”

Service is an “action,” said Steger. While bringing in canned food items is helpful to the food bank and the community, Steger said she believes that “students can do more.”

Commending her colleague, social studies teacher Sean Haardt, Steger said that he is also very involved in the service aspect of the classroom. Steger said that both she



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Clockwise from top: Students participate in the Trout in the Classroom project, in which trout are hatched in Sharon Steger’s classroom and later released into a local stream; students help in the renovation and repair of a home in the Rebuilding Together program; removing barberry from Catocin Mountain Park is achieved with the help of Steger’s students.

and Haardt believe that “there should be a preparation component, an action component and a reflection component.”

Service has always been an important part of Steger’s teaching career. When

asked why she gets students so involved, Steger’s answer is simple: “I just think that it’s cool to watch to the kids and see how they interact,” when they are out in the community instead of in the classroom.

### HOT STUFF

## Key dates fill calendar as school year nears end

- Thursday, May 26  
MHS Senior Final Exams
- Wednesday, June 17  
Exams given in regular classes
- Thursday, June 18  
Exam make-up day: two-hour early dismissal
- Friday, June 19  
Last day of school for teachers and other 10-month employees

## A few yearbooks remain; don’t miss out on yours

Yearbooks will be distributed on Friday, May 15. That’s just one week away. Don’t miss out on having your own book.

There are just a few left, so see Mr. Kady in Room 312 as soon as possible. Yearbooks cost \$74.20 and checks should be made out to MHS.

## People helping people offering school supplies

Middletown Valley People Helping People (MVPHP) is offering school supply assistance to local families for this upcoming 2015-2016 school year.

If you are in need of some assistance or would like to assist others by donating school supplies, please contact MVPHP at 301-371-3119.

Pre-registration is required. Requests for assistance must be received by July 24.

The pick-up date to receive the



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### Future Business Leaders of America Qualify for Nationals

During the last weekend of April, Future Business Leaders of America students competed at the State Leadership Conference in Baltimore. Students competed in a variety of events (written and performance) and had a very successful conference. The following are the results from this year’s state conference:

Event	Place	Event
Audrey Rudy	6 <sup>th</sup>	Public Speaking
Mark DeArcangelis	8 <sup>th</sup>	Global Business
Mark Hankewycz		
Riley Brake	9 <sup>th</sup>	Word Processing
Liam Cotera	9 <sup>th</sup>	Business Calculations
Erin Seagraves	1 <sup>st</sup>	Introduction to Business Communications
Stephanie Letourneau	1 <sup>st</sup>	Management Decision Making
Sarah Durham		
Meredith Bertulattis		

school supplies is Thursday, July 30, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Middletown United Methodist Church, 7108 Fern Circle, Middletown, Maryland.

## MHS administration, staff thank volunteers

The Middletown High School ad-

ministration and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers for the donation of your time in helping and serving the students and staff at MHS.

We had a total of 5,580 recorded volunteer hours from May 1, 2014, through April 30, 2015. This number does not reflect hours from many of the MHS parents and community members who went above and be-

yond to help support our students and staff.

To the sincere “Thank You” to the PTSA, our booster club, and all the parents and the community families for your support to MHS. Have a wonderful and safe summer.

## English Honor Society offering two scholarships

National English Honor Society is offering two scholarships to two graduating seniors who are members of NEHS. Scholarship Guidelines and Essay Information may be picked up from Ms. Leonard in Room 510 beginning May 1. The deadline to submit the essay is Friday, May 22.

## Drama Boosters taking scholarship applications

The Drama Boosters are now taking applications for the 2014 Senior Scholarships. Seniors can pick up the application form from Ms. Duva or Ms. Denton.

All applications are due by two thirty on Thursday, April 30. Information can also be found on the drama website.

## Baccalaureate ceremony plans are set for May 31

The PTSA would like to invite all seniors and their families and friends to come to the Baccalaureate Ceremony on Sunday, May 31, at 7 p.m. in the MHS auditorium. There will be refreshments to follow in the cafeteria.